

St. John Lutheran Church & School
Berlin, Wisconsin
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



March 8, 2026
The 3rd Sunday in Lent

Serving Us Today:
Pastor Rob Schrader
Organist: Nancy Wallner
920-361-9935
www.stjohnberlin.org

Large Print Bulletin

AS WE GATHER... It often seems that life is a debate about the things we do not know. What is truth? What is right and wrong? Where is God? None of these questions are theoretical and all of them are answered in Christ, whom we know as Savior and Redeemer. The Law reveals the depth of our need and our sinful hearts. Christ makes known the love of the Father. Gathered in worship, we meet where Christ is—in His Word and Sacraments. Faith is not about what we do not know but about what we do know. Christ is our all. He fulfills the promise of the Old Testament and completes our redemption. We confess Him who came, who comes to us now through the means of grace, and who will come again to deliver us to the Father. To know Christ is to know everything.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP HELPS... Please know we have two children's worship bulletins available for young non-readers and older children. Both bulletins have activities that go along with the weekly theme. We also have activity bags for children hanging on the rear wall of the church for use throughout the worship service. If needed we have a cry room/nursery (with changing table) behind the organ in the southwest corner of the church.

Confession and Absolution

437 Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

**1 Alas! And did my Savior bleed,
And did my sov'reign die?
Would He devote that sacred head
For such a worm as I?**

**2 Was it for crimes that I had done
He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown,
And love beyond degree!**

**3 Well might the sun in darkness hide
And shut his glories in
When God, the mighty maker, died
For His own creatures' sin.**

**4 Thus might I hide my blushing face
While His dear cross appears,
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
And melt mine eyes to tears.**

**5 But drops of grief can ne'er repay
The debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away:
'Tis all that I can do.**

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt. Text: Public domain

Stand

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their
Baptism.*

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,
C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Kyrie

LSB 186

C Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 105:26–27

²⁶He sent Moses, his servant,
and Aaron, whom he had chosen.

²⁷They performed his signs among them
and miracles in the land of Ham.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Titus 3:3–7

³For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. ⁴But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel

John 1:29–30

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

²⁹The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.'

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

**C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life + everlasting. Amen.**

Sit

Children's Sermon

716 I Walk in Danger All the Way

**I walk in danger all the way.
The thought shall never leave me**

**That Satan, who has marked his prey,
Is plotting to deceive me.
This foe with hidden snares
May seize me unawares
If I should fail to watch and pray.
I walk in danger all the way.**

**2 I pass through trials all the way,
With sin and ills contending;
In patience I must bear each day
The cross of God's own sending.
When in adversity
I know not where to flee,
When storms of woe my soul dismay,
I pass through trials all the way.**

**3 And death pursues me all the way,
Nowhere I rest securely;
He comes by night, he comes by day,
He takes his prey most surely.
A failing breath, and I
In death's strong grasp may lie
To face eternity today
As death pursues me all the way.**

**4 I walk with angels all the way,
They shield me and befriend me;
All Satan's pow'r is held at bay
When heav'nly hosts attend me;**

**They are my sure defense,
All fear and sorrow, hence!
Unharmed by foes, do what they may,
I walk with angels all the way.**

**5 I walk with Jesus all the way,
His guidance never fails me;
Within His wounds I find a stay
When Satan's pow'r assails me;
And by His footsteps led,
My path I safely tread.
No evil leads my soul astray;
I walk with Jesus all the way.**

**6 My walk is heav'nward all the way;
Await, my soul, the morrow,
When God's good healing shall allay
All suff'ring, sin, and sorrow.
Then, worldly pomp, begone!
To heav'n I now press on.
For all the world I would not stay;
My walk is heav'nward all the way.**

Text: Hans Adolf Brorson, 1694–1764; tr. Ditlef G. Ristad, 1863–1938,
alt. Text: Public domain

**Sermon “The History of the World that *Really* Matters:
The Deliverance”**

Stand

Offertory LSB 192

**C Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence,
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation,
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

Sit

Offering

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament

Preface *LSB 194*

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up unto the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C It is meet and right so to do.

P "Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, let us now and evermore praise God's glorious name, singing:

Sanctus *LSB 195*

**C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He,
blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

**ALL Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to

the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

LSB 197

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei *LSB 198*

C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Distribution Hymns

Go to Dark Gethsemane

**1 Go to dark Gethsemane,
All who feel the tempter's pow'r;
Your Redeemer's conflict see,
Watch with Him one bitter hour;**

**Turn not from His griefs away;
Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.**

**2 Follow to the judgment hall,
View the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall!
Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss;
Learn from Him to bear the cross.**

**3 Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb;
There, adoring at His feet,
Mark that miracle of time,
God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear Him cry;
Learn from Jesus Christ to die.**

**4 Early hasten to the tomb
Where they laid His breathless clay;
All is solitude and gloom.
Who has taken Him away?
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes.
Savior, teach us so to rise.**

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854 Text: Public domain

752 Be Still, My Soul

**1 Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;**

**Leave to your God to order and provide;
In ev'ry change He faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'nly Friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.**

**2 Be still, my soul; your God will undertake
To guide the future as He has the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.**

**3 Be still, my soul; though dearest friends depart
And all is darkened in this vale of tears;
Then you will better know His love, His heart,
Who comes to soothe your sorrows and your fears.
Be still, my soul; your Jesus can repay
From His own fullness all He takes away.**

**4 Be still, my soul; the hour is hast'ning on
When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessèd we shall meet at last.**

Text: Catharina Amalia Dorothea von Schlegel, 1697–1752; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–97, alt. Text: Public domain

Stand

Thanksgiving *LSB 200*

P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

C and His mercy endureth forever.

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

Benedicamus

LSB 202

P Bless we the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 202

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you
and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and + give you peace.

C Amen, amen, amen.

746 Through Jesus' Blood and Merit

1 Through Jesus' blood and merit

I am at peace with God.

What, then, can daunt my spirit,

However dark my road?

My courage shall not fail me,

For God is on my side;

Though hell itself assail me,

Its rage I may deride.

2 There's nothing that can sever

From this great love of God;

No want, no pain whatever,

No famine, peril, flood.

Though thousand foes surround me,

For slaughter mark His sheep,

They never shall confound me,

The vict'ry I shall reap.

3 For neither life's temptation

Nor death's most trying hour

Nor angels of high station

Nor any other pow'r

Nor things that now are present

Nor things that are to come

Nor height, however pleasant,

Nor darkest depths of gloom

**4 Nor any creature ever
Shall from the love of God
This ransomed sinner sever;
For in my Savior's blood
This love has its foundation;
God hears my faithful prayer
And long before creation
Named me His child and heir.**

Text: Simon Dach, 1605–59; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
Text: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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Attendance Last Week: 345
General giving last week: \$16,868.50
Budget giving needed: \$ 7,500.00

Calendar of Activities this week at St. John

9 Monday	Trustee Meeting	6:30 pm
10 Tuesday	Board of Education	6:00pm
10 Tuesday	Board of Elders	6:30 pm

11 Wednesday	Lent Supper	5:15-6:15 pm
11 Wednesday	Lent Evening Service	6:30 pm
15 Sunday	Worship Service/HC	9:00 am
15 Sunday	Bible Class	10:30 am
15 Sunday	Sunday School	10:30 am

GATHER WITH US TO PAINT FLOWERS – LITERALLY! March 21st. 10:00 am until Noon. St. John Church basement. \$35 to participate All supplies included. NO Experience necessary. 16 years old and up only. Water provided – bring your morning coffee if you like. Sponsor and Guide is Elissa Ewald.

LENTEN SUPPERS: The Lenten Supper on Wednesday, March 11 will be sponsored by the Ladies Aid. They will be serving Sloppy Joes.

HOLY BAPTISM: Being received through Baptism into the covenant and kingdom of God’s grace today after the service is Delaney Jennifer Keller, daughter of Justice and Molly Keller, who entered this life on November 29, 2025, and is being given new life in Christ through this washing of regeneration. Serving as her sponsors are: Brian and Cindy Hartzke.

YOUNG ADULT GAME NIGHT – MARCH 20: All young adults (high school grads through about age 30, married or single) are invited to a “Get to Know You” Game Night on Friday, March 20 at 7:00 pm at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (2450 W 9th Ave, Oshkosh). Join

us for games, snacks, and an evening of connecting with other young Christians. We're excited to see how God will bless these new friendships — we hope you'll join us!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH: Whether it's before the service begins or while you're waiting during communion time, the elders wanted to provide you with suggestions for growing spiritually. In the front cover of your hymnal is a list of suggestions for things to do during that down time in church. Additionally, after the final hymn is sung during communion time, there'll be a special monthly suggestion on the screens. Please make the most of your time here to learn how to be with God and grow closer to him by adopting some of these practices. Thank you!

PTL MEETING CHANGE OF DATE: Please note that our PTL meeting scheduled for this Sunday has been re-scheduled to March 16th. We are excited to announce that we are planning a PTL Potluck Family Night and we will hold our PTL meeting during that event instead. Please save the date and keep an eye out for more information coming soon!

SUMMER VBS! Summer Vacation Bible School will be here before we know it! The St. John Board of Christian Education is looking for a VBS lead for this summer. You can pick the date(s) the program runs and the times. There is an awesome group of people willing to help out; we just need someone to be the organizer. Please reach out to the school office if you are interested.
school@stjohnberlin.org 920-361-0555,

or talk to any school board member.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL TRIVIA NIGHT – March 14th: Join us for a fun evening of fellowship at St. John’s Lutheran School on **Saturday, March 14, from 5:00 – 7:30 pm. Admission is \$10 per person or \$55 for a table of six.** Childcare will be available for a free will offering. All proceeds support the school’s new roof project. A small silent auction will also be held. **Sign up on the sheet in the Narthex, call Gretchen Willis (608-566-9070) , or contact the School Office.**

THIS WEEK IN SUNDAY SCHOOL: “The Downfall Wall” is the title of this week’s lesson. Confident in their wall, the people of Jericho shut themselves up inside the city. Following God’s unusual battle plan, Joshua gathers the priests, trumpets, ark of the covenant, and people. Six days they march once around the city, then seven times on the seventh day, giving a shout at the conclusion of the last circuit. The city walls come tumbling down, and the Israelites wipe out the citizens and livestock while plundering precious metals for the tabernacle. Yet Rahab and her family are spared.

MISSING GREEN JACKET: Following the Wednesday evening service on February 25th, one of our members discovered his new Green North Face winter jacket was missing from the main level coat rack. It was a gift to him and he would like it returned. If you see the jacker or if someone mistakenly took the jacket, kindly return it to the Church Office.

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT - HUMAN CARE COMMITTEE: The Human Care Committee serves our church family and community with compassion and confidentiality by helping with needs such as medical expenses, rent, utilities, rides, and encouragement. We seek to show God's love in tangible ways, remembering that He has first cared for us in Christ. If you have a caring and sharing heart and would like to serve, we would love to have you join us. For more information, please contact Linda Nitz.

FOOD PANTRY NEWS: We want to thank everyone here at St. John who so generously supported our food drives last year. We are again collecting for the Berlin Food Pantry in March. We will be accepting non-perishable food items, paper products and monetary donations. Please place your donations in the large blue bin.

LOOKING FOR USHERS: If you're interested in serving the church one month a year as an usher, please sign up in the back of church. It's a great way to start getting involved and give back to the Lord who has given so much to you!

LOOKING FOR MEDIA HELPERS: We could use more helpers to advance the slides during both Thursday and Sunday services and to video record the Sunday services. Both tasks really help us to proclaim the Gospel and neither require much computer savviness. Please sign up in the back of church.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CAMP LUWISOMO: St. John has money set aside to provide scholarships for children who'd like to attend

summer camp at Camp LuWiSoMo. If you're interested, please speak with Pastor Rob before March 16.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY AT RIVER SHORES! Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered, 12-step recovery group for anyone struggling with hurt, pain, or addiction of any kind. Meetings are held every Monday night at 6:00 pm at River Shores Church in Berlin. Feel free to call or text Bob M. with any questions: (920) 896-3755. Change is possible!

GRIEFSHARE: There is going to be a new Griefshare session starting up at River Shores Church every Tuesday from March 3 - June 2. This is a faith-based support group with teachings to help you through any kind of grief. If you have questions, please talk with Amy Brooks or call the program leader at (520)-330-9379.

DIVORCE CARE: Meets on Thursday nights at 6:00 pm in the 4th/5th grade room off the multipurpose room at River Shores church (253 S. Church St.) Contact River Shores Church Office with any questions. (920-376-5877)